

# NEWSLETTER

www.portmore.org.uk

SUMMER 2018

A voluntary association supporting local heritage, quality of life and community



DIY 20 limit sign direction shows what's wanted for Grotto Road

## Road safety: 20 zone & pavement

Hopes were raised earlier this year of the 20 zone being extended east of Thames Street. Also the Grotto Road junction at last being made safer for pedestrians. Sadly the initiative stalled. It's time to resume campaigning!

Residents have pressed for many years for a pavement on the north side of Grotto Road, so pedestrians aren't forced to walk in the road. The safety case is obvious. It's the route to school and to the local shop.

When the north Weybridge 20 Zone was put in, many residents east of Thames Street were astounded that they had been excluded. Some thought the signs had been put in the wrong way. Why would Surrey make it 20 on Thames Street, but 30mph around St James Primary School?

Local views are perhaps summed up by the way the 20 zone signs have been turned around. We say it's time for Surrey Highways to make our area safer for pedestrians.

Share your views at our AGM or at portmore.org.uk

## Grenside Road school parking

Residents of Grenside Road face school traffic and parking issues which need help from Surrey Highways. As a cul de sac with no turning space, things can get fraught when large numbers of parents park up on the pavement and neighbouring land, wait with engines running, then try to turn around and drive out.

The use of the Grenside Road second school entrance is in line with Surrey's policy of multiple access points. But there are no zigzags or special parking restrictions, despite pre-election suggestions about safety improvements.

The school is trying to make sure parents are considerate, but official parking restrictions from Surrey would allow traffic wardens to enforce better behaviour.

## Weybridge Walk-In Centre

Doctors' surgeries, a treatment room and pharmacy are running well in portakabins on the old Weybridge Hospital site. But no replacement walk-in centre.

The old walk-in centre was a hub for urgent treatment serving nearby communities. What is planned now? From September NW Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group plans a 3 month public consultation on where urgent treatment centres would be best located across North West Surrey.

Nearest walk-in centres are currently at Woking and Ashford. Weybridge is midway between, so seems a pretty good location. Can we persuade them?

## Riverside / lakeside clean up

On 23 Sept there will be another Broadwater Clean Up, collecting litter and removing balsam from public land at Cowey Sale, organised by WoTTA. Join the volunteers? Organise a similar initiative at the Weybridge end?

## Saving Broadwater from silting up

### Broadwater Path opens the way to funding

Weybridge residents and visitors alike are enjoying lakeside walks along Broadwater Path, between Grenside Road and Cowey Sale. Its dedication as a public footpath and its new crushed stone surface give year round access to the lakeside - a beautiful, tranquil, historic local feature, rich with wildlife.

What many don't know is that the path is essential for the future of the lake itself. Without formal public access, the lake would not qualify for the public funding needed to stop it silting up. Broadwater is a centuries old man made lake, which requires maintenance.

Without dredging, the lake silts and becomes marshland, growing rushes then self-seeded trees. In the 14 years that residents (including PPDR) pressed for the path, silting got worse at the Greenlands Road end. The middle length also silted badly, until residents raised funds to dredge.

Last year Elmbridge BC contributed a CIL grant, which helped fund some urgent dredging. The Broadwater Conservation Society is now seeking public funding from national sources, and wider local support.

This historic lake is an important part of local heritage. So PPDR proposes to become affiliated to the Broadwater Conservation Society. To be voted on at our AGM.



Broadwater Lake viewed from Broadwater Path, August 2018

## Weybridge Parking Project

Weybridge has parking and traffic issues, and many residents believe strategic action is long overdue. So the Weybridge Parking Project, a joint initiative by Weybridge Society & Weybridge Town Business Group, is welcome.

It is a major undertaking on a significant topic. Starting with solid research on business parking, plus views on parking from residents' groups, it suggested a plan for a much larger controlled parking zone (CPZ) prohibiting non-resident all-day parking, together with increased off-street capacity, primarily through multi-storey car parks.

The PPDR committee welcomes the research, and the ambition to improve things. We also welcome the willingness of the project to listen to reactions and comments, and to adapt its initial ideas for potential solutions as further factors are considered.

Some important considerations? Parking and traffic must be considered together. Parking bans may increase rat run traffic flows. Areas around schools have special issues. Some roads have very limited parking: a CPZ will reduce the space in which residents can park, with new yellow lines. Parking problems vary from road to road, and from daytime to evening, so one solution may not fit all.

You can read more on our website, including a comprehensive overview of how the project is evolving.

Share your views at our AGM or at portmore.org.uk

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## Community Meeting

and PPDR AGM

Meet fellow residents and local councillors

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018

7:30 for 8pm

St Charles Borromeo School hall

Christ The Prince Of Peace (Portmore Way)

7:30 - Chat and light refreshments

8:00 - Hear about and share your views on local matters

Roads covered by Portmore Park & District Residents Association: Portmore Park Road, Beales Lane, Cedar Road, Church Walk, Clinton Close, The Crescent, Darnley Park, Devonshire Road, Dorchester Road, Dorney Grove, Elm Grove Road, Farnell Mews, Gascoigne Road, Glencoe Road, Grenside Road, Greenlands Road, Grotto Road, Holstein Avenue, Jessamy Road, Lincoln Grove, Minorca Road, Montrose Walk, Mount Pleasant, Oakdale Road, Portmore Way, Radnor Road, Round Oak Road, St Albans Avenue, Thames Street, Walton Lane, Wey Road, Whittets Ait, The Willows.

**Aims of PPDR:** We are a non-political voluntary association of residents, supporting local heritage, quality of life and community. **We help residents have more of a voice on local matters.**

**How to join/renew** Please use the form below, or download a renewal or standing order form from our website

**Contact us** - contactus@portmore.org.uk - PPDR c/o 3 Clinton Close, Weybridge, KT13 8NU

**PPDR Committee 2018:** Miles Macleod (Chair) Clinton Close, Tel 844449; Jane Heard (Secretary) PPR; Ian Bonnett (Treasurer) The Willows; Pippa Graeme, Elm Grove Rd; Sarah Jane Groves, Grenside Rd; Barbara Molony, Greenlands Rd; Doug Myers, Walton Lane; Pauline O'Sullivan, Wey Road; Diane Phillips, PPR; William Rutherford, Mount Pleasant.

### JOIN / RENEW Membership of PPDR is open to all residents between the High Street and the Rivers Wey and Thames

We have a nominal subscription of £3 or more, to help cover costs. **Want to become more involved?** Just let us know!

**PPDR Membership Form** (Subscription normally due at the time of the AGM, for the following year)

Please return at our AGM or to: **PPDR Membership, c/o 38 Portmore Park Road, Weybridge, KT13 8HU**

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Postcode..... Email .....

(kept confidential - used only for PPDR membership communications)

I enclose (please tick): £3  £5  Other  amount: **Would you like to subscribe annually by standing order?**

Cheques payable to 'Portmore Park and District Residents Association' please. **Bank details:** Sort Code 60-23-34 Account number 81676611

I am interested in:  Joining the Committee / voice for my road  Helping with the newsletter  Other: .....

# Our part of Weybridge – what matters for you?

**Weybridge is a great place to live.** It is a great location in all kinds of ways, it is a town with history, with tree lined roads of lovely homes. We have lots of green spaces, well tended parks, wonderful riverside walks along the Wey and Thames, Desborough Island country meadows, and now a tranquil lakeside walk along Broadwater.

Like any town we face pressures: traffic and parking issues, civic amenities at risk, development proposals, flood planning, town centre facilities getting tired, and so on.

Portmore Park & District Residents Association has its origins in the 1960s. We have focused on things that would have a lasting impact on our part of Weybridge, and campaigned vigorously. We have a very positive record of bringing people together to make a difference.

Some local concerns are featured on the right, including riverside and Green Belt, amenities, cycling, parking, traffic, and more. Below are thoughts that centre on traffic.

## Keeping traffic in its place

Parts of our town are dominated by traffic. We are on a popular route to and from the M25, and a route to and from Walton Bridge – so through traffic has major impact.

The A317 – our High Street – carries around 21,000 vehicle journeys a day through Weybridge.

Walton Lane carries around 5000 journeys a day: people driving through unclassified residential Weybridge roads.

## Putting pedestrians first

Do we have to let traffic dominate Weybridge? Wouldn't it be good to put pedestrians first, in our residential roads and in our town centre?

- Discourage rat run traffic past our homes & schools
- Make our town centre more pleasant to walk and sit in
- Make walking and cycling safer

## Helpful traffic jams

At peak times things grind nearly to halt in the High Street. Those jams have the positive effect of stopping even more drivers choosing the A317. But a number of drivers use rat runs through residential roads like Portmore Park Road.

Conclusion: Don't encourage rat runners -- don't make it easier for them to drive fast through our residential roads by clearing their way with new all-day parking restrictions.

## Natural traffic calming

It is worth thinking of parked cars on Portmore Park Road, Thames Street and elsewhere, as natural traffic calming, discouraging rat running. When Surrey Highways proposed banning daytime parking on Portmore Park Road in 2009, there was an outcry locally. Surrey abandoned their plan.

## 20 MPH Zones help

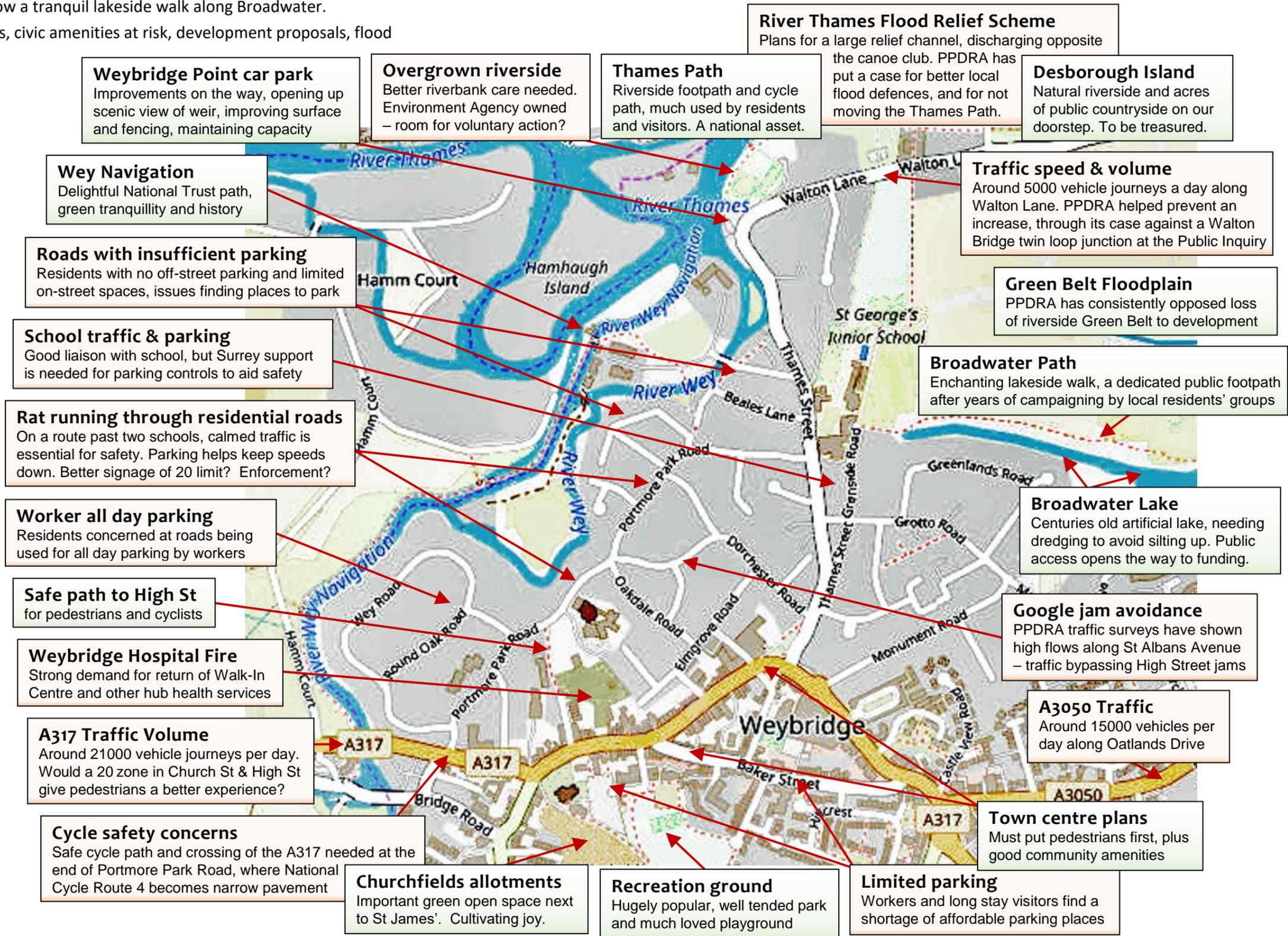
We are pleased to have a 20 Zone, but it must be extended, and better signed. We got some roundels. More are needed plus illuminated signs. Enforcement would be good – if the police won't do it, then maybe volunteers in yellow jackets?

## Town centre changes

Town centres are changing from retail to leisure. Each year more shopping is done online, and rising rents and business rates have squeezed high street retail everywhere.

But you can't have a sociable meal or coffee online...

## Some recent and current concerns for PPDR



...so the high street of the near future must make sure it's a pleasant place to do that, and to be a pedestrian.

- What would help Weybridge achieve that better?
- 20 Zone in the High Street with a different road surface?
  - The end of Baker St pedestrianised, at least at weekends?

And what are the implications for parking needs?

With major decisions pending around the Weybridge Hospital site (which we are told will be retained for health services), and possibly the library building, clear vision of the future we want for our town is more important than ever.

**Share your thoughts at our Portmore Park & District Community Meeting and PPDR AGM Thursday 13 Sept 7:30 for 8pm**